

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD)  
In collaboration with the Government of Finland

## **Expert Group Meeting**

### **“Promoting Social Integration”**

8-10 July 2008, Helsinki, Finland

### **Annotated Agenda**

#### **7 July 2008**

Participants arrive in Helsinki

20:00- 21:00

**Welcoming remarks:** Dr. Vappu Taipale

**‘Social Policy in a Contemporary World’, book launch event  
organized by the World Bank**

**Presentation:** Dr. Anis Dani

**Discussant:** Dr. Simo Mannila

#### **8 July 2008**

8:30-9:00

**Registration**

9:00-9:45

**Opening session**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks:** Dr. Jussi Simpura, Acting  
Director General, STAKES, Dr. Ronald Wiman, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs, Finland

9:45-10:15

**Introductory Session: Objectives and expected outcomes of the  
meeting** Dr. Sergei Zelenev, UN/DESA  
**Introductions of the participants**

10:15-10:30

**Break**

10:30-12:30

**Session I: Social integration in a development context: Existing frameworks geared towards “a society for all”**

Moderator – Prof. Vivienne Taylor,  
Introductory remarks – Prof. Bienvenido Rola

*Questions for discussion*

- How have approaches to social integration evolved since the World Summit for Social Development?
- In what ways do existing group-specific mandates address social integration (e.g., youth, older persons, persons with disabilities)?
- What are the differing regional perspectives on social integration and inclusive policies (ECLAC, ECE, ECA, ESCWA, ESCAP)?

*Roundtable discussion*

12:30-14:00

**Lunch Break**

14:00-15:30

**Session II: The social development triad: Social integration in the context of poverty eradication and promoting employment and decent work for all**

Moderator – Prof. Naila Kabeer  
Introductory remarks – Prof. Vivienne Taylor

*Questions for discussion*

- How does social integration relate to efforts to achieve the other two goals of the Social Summit; poverty eradication and full employment and decent work for all?
- In what ways are poverty and inequality major obstacles to inclusion?
- How does exclusion from labour market and/or job security/insecurity affect social inclusion?

*Roundtable discussion*

15:30-16:00

**Break**

16:00-17:45

**Session III: Social integration and related concepts**

Moderator – Prof. Tracey McDonald  
Introductory remarks – Prof. Maria Amparo Cruz-Saco & Prof. Sharon Jeannotte

*Questions for discussion*

- How could social integration, social inclusion, social cohesion and other related concepts be best defined (i.e., well-being, quality of life)?
- How can the concept of social inclusion be applied to address disparity, inequality, inequity, and exclusion?
- What is the significance of diversity and identity within the context of social inclusion?
- Why is social cohesion important for societies?
- How do perceptions of justice, security and insecurity affect social solidarity and social capital in the context of social cohesion?
- Cultural aspects of social inclusion

*Roundtable discussion*

17:45-17:55

Wrap-up by the Rapporteur of day one – Ms. Gladys Mutangadura

**9 July 2008**

9:00-10:30

**Session IV: Existing approaches to promote social integration/social inclusion and lessons learned**

Moderator – Dr. Anis Dani

Introductory remarks – Ms. Gabriele Köhler

*Questions for discussion*

- What are some examples of best practices and lessons learned in an inclusive policy process?
- What effect do welfare mechanisms (social protection) have on social integration?
- Social entitlements and social guarantees
- What are some of the opportunities and challenges in a rights-based approach to social policy formulation and implementation?
- Civic rights and responsibilities: participatory planning and budgeting, in “ownership and belonging” issues

*Presentation of national case studies and discussion*

10:30-10:45

**Break**

10:45-12:30

**Session V: Social integration in post-conflict and fragile societies**

Moderator – Ms. Gladys Mutangadura  
Introductory remarks – Prof. Jo Beall

*Questions for discussion*

- How can efforts to promote social integration/inclusion help countries manage social tensions, transform conflict, and prevent social polarization, fragmentation and disintegration?
- How can we address the issue of social justice, equal access/opportunities to basic services and more equitable distribution of wealth during post-conflict recovery and transition?
- How can effective institutional mechanisms that promote social inclusion in post-conflict and fragile societies be created?
- What is the best way to integrate social integration/inclusion principles into various post-conflict peacebuilding policies and activities?

*Roundtable discussion*

12:30-14:00

**Lunch break**

14:00-15:30

**Session VI: Investing in inclusion: Ways and means to develop national capacities – policy formulation, implementation and coordination**

Moderator – Mrs. Soheir Kansouh  
Introductory remarks – Mr. Gerry Mangan

*Questions for discussion*

- How can clear social integration/inclusion goals/objectives be set and policies to reduce obstacles to social inclusion be formulated and implemented?
- How can institutional mechanisms mainstream social integration/inclusion objectives into existing policies and programmes in all areas?
- How can the design and implementation of inclusion policies be coordinated so as to ensure the participation of relevant stakeholders (national and local governments, civil society and the private sector)?
- How can a participatory dialogue be used to effectively address the needs and concerns of different stakeholders?

*Roundtable discussion*

15:30-16:00

**Break**

16:00-17:45

**Session VII: Investing in inclusion: Ways and means to develop national capacities – monitoring and evaluation**

Moderator – Dr. Mohamed Halfani

Introductory remarks – Mr. Gerry Mangan

*Questions for discussion*

- How can the impact of policy interventions aimed at promoting social integration/inclusion be monitored and assessed?
- What are some potential approaches to measuring social inclusion?
- What are acceptable indicators?
- What are some of the methods of analyzing and managing social exclusion?

*Roundtable discussion*

17:45-18:00

Wrap-up by the Rapporteur of day two Mr. Jonas Rabinovitch

**10 July, 2008**

9:00-10:30

**Session VIII: Discussion in the working groups**

*Topics for discussion in the groups*

- What types of mechanisms could be most feasible in creating and sustaining an inclusive society?
- What capacities are needed to develop and apply policies and a concomitant legal framework that would foster and promote an inclusive society?
- What are the limitations of social integration policies in specific country circumstances?

**Preparation of draft recommendations**

Working group A Moderators – Prof. Naila Kabeer & Mrs. Soheir Kansouh

Working group B Moderators – Prof. Jo Beall & Prof. Maria Cruz-Saco

**Presentation of the findings by the Rapporteurs**

**Working Group A** – Prof. Sharon Jeannotte & Dr. Mohamed Halfani

**Working Group B** – Ms. Gabriele Köhler & Prof. Tracey McDonald

10:30-10:45

**Break**

10:45-12:00

**Continuation of Session VIII: Review of recommended approaches and methods**

**Moderator** – Mr. Gerry Mangan

- What makes social inclusion a vital policy objective?
- What are the implications of different choices and policy options?

12:00-14:00

**Lunch break**

14:00-15:30

**Session IX: Distillation of findings and finalization of the recommendations**

*Roundtable discussion*

**Moderator** – Prof. Vivienne Taylor

15:30-15:50

**Break**

15:50-16:30

**Adoption of recommendation by the experts**

16:30

**Concluding remarks, farewell and closing** – Dr. Sergei Zelenev & Dr. Ronald Wiman